

## Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 STATE 005472  
ORIGIN ACDA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-14 ISO-00 PA-02 PRS-01 /042 R

DRAFTED BY ACDA/PA:JMPOPE:MCF  
APPROVED BY ACDA/PA:THALSTED  
-----101912 100038Z /63

P 092257Z JAN 78  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY  
INFO USDEL MBFR VIENNA PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

UNCLAS STATE 005472

USSALTTWO

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PARM, SOPN

SUBJECT: JANUARY 9 PRESS ROUNDUP

L. GEORGE WILSON, WRITING IN JANUARY 9 WASHINGTON POST, REPORTED THAT REP. LES ASPIN HAD RELEASED 26-PAGE STUDY WHICH CONCLUDED THAT U.S. NOT ONLY WOULD BE BETTER OFF MILITARILY BUT COULD SAVE AS MUCH AS 20 BILLION DOLLARS BY APPROVING NEW ARMS CONTROL AGREEMENT WITH SOVIET UNION. WILSON SAID ASPIN STUDY IS "PART OF COUNTERATTACK AGAINST THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN WARNING THAT PRESIDENT CARTER IS ABOUT TO SEND SENATE TREATY THAT WOULD MAKE U.S. INFERIOR TO SOVIET UNION IN STRATEGIC NUCLEAR WEAPONS." ASPIN SAID WITHOUT SALT TWO, CURRENT ARMS RACE BETWEEN U.S. AND SOVIET UNION WILL ACCELERATE, FORCING AN EXTRA U.S. EXPENDITURE OF 20 BILLION DOLLARS THAT "WE WOULDN'T HAVE TO SPEND IF SALT ACCORD IS RATIFIED." EVEN AFTER SPENDING THAT SUM, HE CONTENDED, US WOULD STILL BE WORSE OFF  
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 STATE 005472

COMPARATIVELY BECAUSE USSR, WITHOUT BRAKE OF SALT WEAPONRY -- PRODUCE LOT OF GIANT MISSILES. ASPIN ARGUED THAT EVEN IF SALT TWO DOES NOT STOP A NUCLEAR ARMS RACE DEAD, "IT WILL AT LEAST PUT AN END TO QUANTITATIVE RACE AND CONFINE COMPETITION TO QUALITY -- VERY AREA THAT IS OUR STRONG SUIT. BUT IF WE REJECT TREATY AND RESUME QUANTITATIVE RACE, WE ARE ENTERING RACE IN WHICH WE ARE

ALREADY BEHIND -- SURELY VERY CURIOUS ROUTE TO CHOOSE."  
POST CORRESPONDENT REPORTED THAT "REDUCING HIS ARGUMENT TO  
SPECIFIC NUMBERS THAT ASPIN SAID HAD PASSED MUSTER WHEN RE-  
VIEWED BY EXPERTS, HE PREDICTED THIS IS WHAT WOULD HAPPEN  
TO RELATIVE STRENGTHS OF U.S. AND SOVIET UNION BETWEEN  
NOW AND 1985 WITH AND WITHOUT SALT TWO AGREEMENT:  
(1) MISSILES AND BOMBERS. U.S. CURRENTLY HAS 83 PERCENT  
OF SOVIET TOTAL. THIS FIGURE WOULD RISE TO 91 PERCENT  
UNDER SALT TWO AGREEMENT, FALL TO 60 PERCENT WITHOUT ONE.  
(2) NUCLEAR WARHEADS. U.S. WOULD CONTINUE TO HAVE 29  
PERCENT MORE WARHEADS THAN SOVIETS UNDER SALT TWO BUT  
WOULD END UP WITH SEVEN PERCENT FEWER WARHEADS THAN  
SOVIETS WITHOUT AGREEMENT." (3) THROWWEIGHT.  
U.S. WOULD HAVE 51 PERCENT OF RUSSIA'S WEIGHT-LIFTING  
ABILITY UNDER SALT TWO AND 37 PERCENT WITHOUT AGREEMENT."  
WILSON OBSERVED THAT ARGUMENTS OVER LIKELY IMPACT OF SALT  
TWO LIMITS HAVE BEEN HANDICAPPED BY FACT THAT THERE ARE  
NO OFFICIAL U.S. FIGURES ON PROPOSED SALT TWO LIMITS.  
BACKERS AND CRITICS, HE NOTED, BOTH HAVE BEEN USING  
UNOFFICIAL FIGURES IN DEBATE.

2. RICHARD BURT O) NEW YORK TIMES SAID ASPIN PREPARED  
HIS STUDY ON HIS OWN AND NOT UNDER AUSPICES OF HOUSE  
ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE. ASPIN STUDY, HOWEVER, WAS  
THOUGHT TO HAVE BACKING OF CARTER ADMINISTRATION, BURT  
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 STATE 005472

REPORTED. HE SAID CARTER ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS STATED  
ASPIN STUDY CLOSELY MATCHED INTELLIGENCE ESTIMATES.  
IN INTERVIEW, BURT SAID ASPIN TOLD HIM HIS CONCLUSIONS  
WERE DRAWN FROM PUBLIC SOURCES AND WERE BASED ON  
ASSUMPTION THAT MOSCOW WOULD CONTINUE ITS CURRENT STRATEGIC  
ARMS BUILDUP IN EVENT THAT NEW ACCORD IS NOT COMPLETED OR  
IS NOT APPROVED BY SENATE.

3. ACDA DIRECTOR WARNKE'S MEETING JANUARY 6 IN WASHINGTON  
WITH OVERSEAS WRITERS CLUB RECEIVED WIDE PRESS COVERAGE.  
WRITING IN JANUARY 7 BALTIMORE SUN, CORRESPONDENT HENRY  
TREWHITT SAID WARNKE PREDICTED COMPLETION BY MIDYEAR OF  
ARMS AGREEMENT THAT WILL SATISFY CONGRESS AND AMERICA'S  
ALLIES ALIKE. TREWHITT REPORTED THAT WARNKE SAID NEW  
TREATY, THOUGH HARDLY IDEAL, WILL BE FAR PREFERABLE TO NO  
TREATY AT ALL. IDEAL, WARNKE REMARKED, ALREADY HAS BEEN  
FORECLOSED BY PREVIOUS PATTERN OF SOVIET AND AMERICAN  
DEVELOPMENTS IN NUCLEAR WEAPONRY. TREWHITT SAID  
CLEARLY ADMINISTRATION BELIEVES NEW ROUND OF SALT NEGOTIATIONS,  
BEGINNING MONDAY IN GENEVA, WILL PRODUCE NEW  
TREATY BEFORE END OF JUNE. TREWHITT SAID WARNKE ALSO  
ANTICIPATED COMPLETION OF COMPANION TREATY TO FORBID ALL

TESTS OF NUCLEAR EXPLOSIVES. SUN CORRESPONDENT SAID

ONE BY ONE, MR. WARNKE DEALT WITH OBJECTIONS TO WHAT ALREADY IS KNOWN ABOUT SALT TREATY. FOR EUROPEANS, HE PROMISED THAT U.S. WILL NOT FORECLOSE POSSIBILITY OF PROVIDING TECHNOLOGY OF TACTICAL CRUISE MISSILES TO NATO....AS FOR DOMESTIC CRITICS, MR. WARNKE DENIED FLATLY THAT SALT NEGOTIATIONS HAD CONCEDED STRATEGIC EQUALITY TO SOVIET UNION OR LEFT U.S. MINUTEMAN MISSILE SYSTEM SUBJECT TO ELIMINATION BY SURPRISE SOVIET ATTACK." WARNKE, ACCORDING TO TREWHITT, EMPHASIZED THAT PENDING SALT ACCORDS ARE CRAFTED SPECIFICALLY TO RECOGNIZE PARITY AND REDUCE VULNERABILITY WHILE FREEING BOTH SUPERPOWERS FROM SENSELESS ARMS RACE. WARNKE SAID " PROSPECTS FOR ARMS UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 STATE 005472

CONTROL ARE REMARKABLY GOOD....FOR EITHER OR BOTH TO TRY TO GAIN STRATEGIC SUPERIORITY IS GAME NEITHER SIDE CAN WIN UNLESS OTHER YIELDS. THEY WON'T AND WE WON'T." TREWHITT SAID WARNKE EXPRESSED SATISFACTION THAT NEW TREATY TERMS WOULD RESTRAIN BOTH QUANTITY AND QUALITY OF WEAPONS, AND WOULD PERMIT U.S. TO DO WHATEVER IS NECESSARY IN FUTURE, INCLUDING DEVELOPMENT OF NEW WEAPONS. CONSTRAINTS, WARNKE SAID, ARE EQUITABLE. "YOU DON'T GET ARMS CONTROL FOR FREE," WARNKE REPORTEDLY SAID. "YOU HAVE TO MAKE SURE THAT PRICE IS RIGHT. REGARDING SALT TWO, I AM CERTAIN THAT PRICE IS RIGHT."

4. ROY GUTMAN OF REUTER, IN HIS DISPATCH ON WARNKE'S MEETING WITH JOURNALISTS, SAID ACDA DIRECTOR DECLARED HE DID NOT TAKE "TERRIBLY SERIOUSLY" SOVIET PRESIDENT BREZHNEV'S THREAT TO DEVELOP NEUTRON BOMB IF NATO DECIDED TO DEPLOY IT. GUTMAN QUOTED WARNKE AS SAYING DECISION ON DEPLOYING NEUTRON BOMB WOULD BE TAKEN WITH AMERICA'S NATO ALLIES AND "NOT ON BASIS OF SOVIET PROPAGANDA CAMPAIGN.... BUT FUNDAMENTALLY ON MILITARY BASIS." ON SAME SUBJECT, FRED HOFFMAN OF ASSOCIATED PRESS SAID WARNKE SUGGESTED RUSSIANS ARE NOT SERIOUS ABOUT DEVELOPING NEUTRON BOMB BECAUSE, WITH ROUGHLY TWO TO ONE EDGE OVER NATO FORCES IN TANKS, THEY ARE NOT WORRIED ABOUT AN ARMORED ATTACK BEING LAUNCHED AGAINST THEM OR THEIR ALLIES FROM WESTERN EUROPE. HOFFMAN SAID WARNKE STATED NEUTRON BOMB "KILLS MORE RUSSIANS AND FEWER GERMANS. THAT IS REALLY WHAT NEUTRON BOMB IS DESIGNED TO DO -- TO DEFEND AGAINST SOVIET TANK ATTACK."

5. IN HIS DISPATCH, JIM ANDERSON OF UNITED PRESS INTERNATIONAL FOCUSED ON WARNKE'S PLEDGE THAT U.S. WILL NOT BARGAIN AWAY NATO'S ACCESS TO CRUISE MISSILE IN TRYING TO UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 05 STATE 005472

REACH NEW SALT ACCORD. NOTING REPORTS THAT U.S. WILL  
CONTINUE DEVELOPMENT OF SHORTER-RANGE CRUISE MISSILES,  
THAT ARE OF SPECIAL INTEREST TO EUROPEAN ALLIES, ANDERSON  
SAID "ALTHOUGH HE DECLINED TO SAY SO DIRECTLY WARNKE  
APPEARED TO CONFIRM THOSE REPORTS IN HIS ANSWERS TO QUES-  
TIONS ON CRUISE MISSILE ISSUE." OVERALL, WARNKE SAID,  
"SALT TWO AGREEMENT WHICH IS BEING COMPLETED WILL BE GOOD  
FOR OUR ALLIES, AS WELL AS BEING GOOD FOR US." HE SAID  
ALLIES ARE INTERESTED IN PRESERVING CERTAIN OPTIONS BUT  
"THEY RECOGNIZE THAT YOU ACCEPT RESTRICTIONS ON ARMS THAT  
COULD BE USEFUL TO US IN ORDER TO OBTAIN MILITARY  
RESTRICTIONS ON OTHER SIDE." VANCE

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRESS SUMMARIES, POLITICAL SITUATION  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 09 jan 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978STATE005472  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** JPMPOPE:MCF  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D780013-1230  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** STATE  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1978/newtext/t19780184/aaaacsxb.tel  
**Line Count:** 187  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** 24b76de5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ORIGIN ACDA  
**Original Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 4  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 04 feb 2005  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 3805433  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** JANUARY 9 PRESS ROUNDUP L. GEORGE WILSON, WRITING IN JANUARY 9 WASHINGTON POST, REPORTED THAT REP. LES ASPIN HAD RELEASED 26-PAGE  
**TAGS:** PARM, SOPN  
**To:** GENEVA USSALTTWO  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/24b76de5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014